

*For Immediate Release*

## Pendleton Juvenile Future Soldiers Hold Flag Ceremony

Pendleton, Indiana (April 27, 2009): Students in the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Future Soldiers program kicked off National Crime Victims' Rights Week by performing a flag ceremony in recognition and support of crime victims throughout the country.

The two combined military units known as Echo-14 and Echo-15 marched to the center of the facility to perform the flag ceremony in the presence of facility staff. The American Flag was then lowered to half-mast for a moment of silence in remembrance and recognition of victims of crime.



Future Soldiers conduct a flag ceremony in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

The purpose of the Future Soldiers program is to identify offenders who meet military enlistment criteria, develop and prepare them as legitimate military recruits and finally arrange for their re-entry placement into one of the military branches whenever possible. The offenders selected for this program will have volunteered for the program, submitted an application, have reached the age of sixteen, and completed a formal interview process. Participation in this program in no way assures acceptance into the military; however, the facility will assist in the waiver process with the offenders if needed.

Along with the goals for this unit, there will be a list of objectives that will also have to be met in order for unit members to complete a successful program. This list of objectives is as follows:

- Develop good citizenship and patriotism.
- Develop self-reliance, leadership, and responsiveness to constituted authority.
- Improve the ability to communicate well; both orally and written.
- Develop an appreciation of the importance of physical fitness.
- Increase respect for the role of the US Armed Forces in support of national objectives.

- Develop a basic knowledge of military skills.

“The Future Soldiers program has been a wonderful addition at the facility, and it really motivates the young men involved,” stated Superintendent Michael Dempsey.

Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Edwin G. Buss added, “This week, the IDOC across the state will be recognizing National Crime Victims’ Rights week, and the Future Soldiers’ flag ceremony at Pendleton Juvenile was a great way to start it off.”

This year’s theme for the 2009 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives; Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act”. The facility will be conducting additional activities throughout the week in honor of this event.

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